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CONTRIBUTION OF PARLIAMENTS TO EFFORTS AIMED AT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES AND ELIMINATION OF APARTHEID AND ALL FORMS OF RACISM

(Resolution adopted by 791 votes to 122, with 207 abstentions)

The 78th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Recalling the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in United Nations General Assembly resolution 1514 of 14 December 1960, and resolution 2621 of 12 October 1970 containing the Programme of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration and resolution 35/118 of 11 December 1980, the annex to which contains the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Resolution,

Noting UN General Assembly resolution 40/56 of 2 December 1985 on the 25th anniversary of the above Declaration,

Noting in particular the observation in UN General Assembly resolution 40/56 that a large number of former colonial territories have achieved independence, and that many former trust and non-self-governing territories have exercised their right to self-determination and independence in accordance with the Declaration,

Recognizing the important role played by the United Nations as a whole, and the above Declaration in particular, in bringing about the granting of independence to a large number of former colonies, trust and non-self-governing territories,

Reaffirming the right of peoples oppressed by colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, racial discrimination and apartheid to independence, national sovereignty and self-determination, as well as their right to struggle by all means available, including armed struggle, to achieve those goals,

Aware that since the adoption of the above Declaration, the concept of neo-colonialism has received increased attention,

Stressing that recognition of both the right of self-determination and the principle of territorial integrity, constitutes the basis on which decolonization can be satisfactorily achieved,

Recalling the important role played by Parliaments in all countries in accomplishing the process of decolonization by ensuring respect for the interests of colonial peoples,

Reaffirming its firm determination and its commitment to eradicating totally and unconditionally racism in all its forms, racial discrimination and apartheid,

Expressing solidarity with the international community in its efforts to promote human rights, fundamental freedoms and decolonization, in accordance with the principle of self-determination, and to eliminate apartheid and all forms of racial discrimination,

Condemning any policy which is based on the superiority of one race or ethnic group over another,

Deeply conterned with the continuous lack of privilege and denial of equal opportunities to ethnic minorities/majorities in certain countries,

Emphasizing the importance of and urgent need to focus international attention on the intolerable oppression and racism in South Africa and Namibia,

Concerned that the welcome bulk of recommendations of the Paris World Conference on Sanctions against Racist South Africa have yet to be implemented primarily because of the self-centred economic interests of certain Western countries in South Africa and Namibia,

Expressing admiration for those who at great personal sacrifice render legal, medical and financial help to mitigate the suffering of children and to inform the world of the barbarious treatment by the racist régime of its most vulnerable citizens,

Convinced that nothing positive can happen in South Africa without the release from prison and detention of all political prisoners and detainees and the participation of the liberation movements in any negotiations to transfer power to the majority,

Viewing with satisfaction the mounting resistance by Blacks to racist laws and the recent Dakar initiative by White liberals from South Africa to talk to the African National Congress (ANC), both of which are indicative of the growing failure of the racist State's propaganda machinery and use of brutal force to intimidate the masses,

Believing that the international community has an obligation to assist Namibians in their fight for self-determination and independence which is separate from and not in any way linked to external issues,

Rejecting efforts by the racist South African régime to annex certain parts of Namibia to its territory,

Reaffirming SWAPO's authenticity as the sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people,

Deeply concerned by the fact that the apartheid régime is treating the Black majorities in South Africa and Namibia in an increasingly violent and intolerable manner, while trying to ensure that any semblance of opposition is silenced,

Appalled by South Africa's tactics of executing its total onslaught on the neighbouring independent Black States, causing destruction worth billions of dollars to the economies of those States and killing and maiming thousands of innocent citizens directly or through its engagement of surrogate bandit groups of UNITA and MNR,

Taking note of the peace initiatives proposed by the People's Republic of Angola with a view to providing an honourable, just and lasting solution to the problems of southern Africa and contained in the platform of comprehensive negotiations submitted in 1984 by His Excellency the President of the People's Republic of Angola, Mr. José Eduardo dos Santos, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, as well as the proposal for a Comprehensive Agreement by Angola, Cuba, South Africa and SWAPO, which was drafted under the auspices of the United Nations Security Council or its permanent members and presented by the Angolan Government to the present United States Government on 4 August 1987,

Commending the flexibility and political will of the Angolan Government in seeking a peaceful settlement to the problems of southern Africa,

Aware that the prevailing poverty of the people of Namibia is the result of the non-compliance of the South African colonial régime with the provisions of United Nations Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia,

Upholding the right of the people of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) to struggle for self-determination and independence,

Supporting the efforts made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to promote the implementation of relevant resolutions on the right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination and independence through a democratic referendum in order to achieve a just and peaceful solution to that problem,

Expressing its keen concern over the continued tension in North-west Africa due to the Western Saharan conflict, which represents a grave threat to peace and stability in the region,

Recalling resolutions 38/40, 39/40, 40/50 and 41/16 of the United Nations General Assembly relating to the question of Western Sahara which take up the peace plan of the OAU as contained in resolution AHG/104 (XIX) on Western Sahara which was adopted by consensus by the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the OAU at its Nineteenth Regular Session (Addis-Ababa, 6-12 June 1983),

Reiterating the calls by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in recent Conferences for the reaffirmation of the inalienable right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination and independence,

Recognizing the Polisario Front as the sole legitimate representative of the Sahrawi people which is defending its legitimate right to live in peace and to occupy its rightful place among independent States,

Recalling the resolution on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) adopted by the 76th Inter-Parliamentary Conference in Buenos-Aires in October 1986,

Considering that the situation in East Timor gives rise to concern,

Deeply concerned over the colonial situation that still prevails in Puerto Rico, Guam, the British Virgin Islands, the United States Virgin Islands, the trusteeship territories in the Pacific Ocean, Bermuda and other so-called small territories under the domination of foreign powers, on which many resolutions have been adopted by the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies,

1. Expresses its appreciation for the work of the United Nations in promoting the independence of colonial peoples, based on the principles of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. Remains committed to finding ways and means to support fully all just struggles of peoples still suffering from colonialism, external interference, interventionism, hegemonism, destabilization and other forms of domination;

3. Regrets that certain colonial situations still exist while acknowledging the progress made in decolonization, and declares that the continuation of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations and all forms of racism and apartheid are incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration and the principles of international law;

4. Reaffirms that all Administering Powers are obliged, under the Charter and in accordance with the Declaration, to create economic, social and other conditions in the territories under their administration which will enable those territories to achieve genuine independence and economic self-reliance, and urges the Administering Powers to draw up an urgent time-table for the granting of the right of self-determination to all peoples still under colonial domination;

5. Requests the Administering Powers to preserve the cultural identity, as well as the national unity, of the territories under their administration and to encourage the full development of the indigenous culture, with a view to facilitating the unfettered exercise of the right of the peoples of those territories to self-determination and independence;

6. Resolves once again that all forms of racism and racial discrimination, particularly in their institutionalized form, such as apartheid or resulting from official doctrines of racial superiority or exclusivity, are among the most serious violations of human rights in the contemporary world and must be combated by all available means;

7. Appeals to all Governments and to international and non-governmental organizations to increase and intensify their activities to combat racism, racial discrimination and apartheid and to provide relief and assistance to the victims of those evils;

8. Reaffirms that the policy of apartheid and denial of equal rights to certain ethnic groups of any country are forms of racism deserving condemnation and elimination;

9. Appeals to all States immediately to remove any legal or other restrictions which hinder any ethnic or other groups from the full enjoyment of equal rights as citizens;

10. Reaffirms the legitimacy of the struggle for national liberation in South Africa and Namibia, both morally and legally, as action in self-defence deserving material and moral support by the international community;

11. Welcomes the International Conference on Children, Repression and the Law in Apartheid South Africa, held in Harare in September 1987, and the impact of its observations and proposals;

12. Condemns the bantustanization of parts of South Africa and the installation of puppet administrations in the Bantustans;

13. Rejects any attempts by the racist régime to involve moderate Black groups in the proposed National Statutory Council as divisive and insignificant to the aspirations of the masses;

14. Also rejects any reforms to the system of apartheid as a shameful and futile attempt to divert international attention from the enormity of the violence and crimes against millions of innocent South Africans;

15. Advocates the release of all political prisoners, including Nelson Mandela and other leaders, as a pre-condition for negotiations involving all political organizations and leading to the abolition of the oppressive and inhuman apartheid system and the establishment of a non-racial society under a government elected by all South Africans by means of universal adult suffrage in a non-fragmented South Africa;

16. Abhors the imposition of a state of emergency and the detention of members and leaders of civic associations, trade unions, youth, student and women's organizations;

17. Rejects the validity of the Whites-only election, which excluded 85 per cent of the population, as a farce and an affront to the principle of democracy;

18. Recognizes with appreciation the efforts made by six nations' leaders and the Non-Aligned Movement in creating an African Fund under the chairmanship of India to aid the just struggles of the peoples under colonial rule and racial oppression;

19. Calls for an increase in national and international pressure, in the context of the universal call for the imposition of mandatory and effective comprehensive sanctions by the United Nations Security Council under Chapter VII of the Charter, and the application of economic sanctions against South Africa up to the breaking off of all trade and diplomatic relations, welcomes the positive initiatives already taken by some countries along those lines, and condemns those countries which provide succour to the apartheid régime by failing to respond positively to that call;

20. Also calls for the repeal of the Internal Security Act, the racist and Nazi-inspired Population Registration Act and other repressive legislative texts covering the right of assembly, censorship and police powers;

21. Condemns the racist South African régime for granting its State security system sweeping powers to control the press, ban public meetings and control funerals in the Black townships, and giving it blanket indemnity to exercise repression with impunity;

22. Also condemns the racist régime, a signatory to the Protocols additional (1977) to the Geneva Convention of 1949, for executing political activists and captured combatants of the ANC;

23. Encourages a greater understanding of the application of the Nuremberg principles providing for punishment for crimes against humanity and the crime of apartheid under the International Convention for the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid;

24. Appeals to the international community to provide the necessary assistance to the South African and Namibian liberation movements and populations for their welfare and rehabilitation;

25. Further appeals to organizations to monitor closely and combat the indiscriminate detention and imprisonment of masses, especially children under eighteen years of age, in jails, police cells and "corrective" camps, as well as the exploitation of child labour;

26. Declares that Walvis Bay, the Penguin Islands and all adjacent off-shore islands are integral parts of Namibia, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions;

27. States that the imposition by the Security Council of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions, in accordance with Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, is the only effective and peaceful means remaining to compel South Africa to eliminate apartheid, halt its acts of aggression against the front-line States, which are peace-loving and legitimate countries, and end its illegal occupation of Namibia;

28. Categorically rejects once again all linkage between the independence of Namibia and the presence of Cuban troops in the People's Republic of Angola, and reaffirms that the presence of Cuban troops in that country or their withdrawal can only be decided by the sovereign State of the People's Republic of Angola;

29. Strongly condemns all attempts by the apartheid South African régime and its Western allies to divert the attention of the international community from the principal question, namely, the decolonization of Namibia, by cynically pretexting East-West rivalry, thereby merely prolonging the people's suffering;

30. Calls for the immediate dissolution of the puppet provisional administration in Namibia, and reaffirms its unreserved support for United Nations Security Council resolution 566 (1985), which states that the establishment by the racist régime of South Africa of a "provisional" Government in Namibia, in violation of United Nations Security Council resolution 435/78, is illegal and null and void;

31. Calls upon all Western countries to abstain from lending assistance to or co-operating with the apartheid régime in the nuclear field;

32. Strongly condemns the current Government of the United States of America for its flagrant and inacceptable interference in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of Angola and for its so-called policy of constructive engagement;

33. Calls for the immediate withdrawal of all racist South African troops from Angolan territory and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of Angola by South-Africa;

34. Exhorts the Government of the United States of America and the Government of South Africa to endeavour seriously and without subterfuge to bring peace to southern Africa, in accordance with the initiatives submitted by the Angolan Government on 4 August 1987;

35. Urges all States to provide economic, financial and military assistance to the front-line States and the South African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) countries, as an effective way of combating apartheid and with a view to guaranteeing their security and reinforcing their economies which have been weakened by aggression, destabilization and dependence;

36. Requests all Parliaments of the world to urge their respective Governments to take all appropriate measures to ensure that all corporations and individuals within their jurisdiction fully apply and comply with the provisions of Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia;

37. Further requests all Parliaments of the world to encourage their respective Governments to increase their support and assistance for the benefit of the education and training of the Namibian people through the United Nations subsidiary organs established for those purposes and to supply technical assistance in anticipation of the independence of the Namibian people;

38. Calls for the implementation without delay of resolution AHG/104 - (XIX) of the Nineteenth OAU Conference of Heads of State and Government and resolutions 40/50 and 41/16 of the United Nations General Assembly so to allow the people of Western Sahara to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence;

39. Recalls resolutions 38/40, 39/40, 40/50 and 41/16 of the United Nations General Assembly and that adopted by the Movement of

Non-Aligned Countries at its Eighth Summit in Harare on the question of Western Sahara, which take up the peace plan of the OAU as contained in resolution AHG/104 (XIX);

40. Renews its call to the two parties to the conflict, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Polisario Front, to begin direct negotiations as soon as possible in order to declare a cease-fire and thereby create the necessary conditions for a peaceful and just referendum, held under the auspices of the OAU and the United Nations and with a view to the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, without any administrative or military constraints, and to fix the modalities thereof;

41. Commends the efforts made by the sitting President of the Organization of African Unity and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to reach a just and definitive solution to the question of Western Sahara;

42. Calls on all Parliaments to support the efforts of the UN and the OAU to implement the relevant resolutions relating to the decolonization of Western Sahara;

43. Requests Morocco not to compromise the international efforts for a peaceful solution and to put an end to its policy of population settlement aiming at changing the demographic equilibrium in Western Sahara in violation of all international conventions relating to the occupied territories;

44. Reasserts the right of the Argentine Republic to the territory of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), South Georgia and the Sandwich Islands, and reiterates its appeal for a peaceful settlement of the dispute between that country and the United Kingdom, condemning the unilateral decision in relation to the exclusive economic zone established by the United Kingdom;

45. Welcomes the fact that, following the Brussels declaration, Spain and the United Kingdom have established a negotiation process in order to solve all their differences on Gibraltar, including questions of sovereignty;

46. Invites the parties concerned by the East Timor question to work together with the United Nations Secretary-General to find, as soon as possible, a solution in the interests of the populations of that territory according to the principle of self- determination;

47. Reaffirms the right of the people of Puerto Rico to self- determination, independence and sovereignty, in accordance with resolution 1514 (XV) of the United Nations General Assembly, and the full validity of that resolution in the case of Puerto Rico;

48. Supports the decisions and resolutions of the United Nations General Asembly on the territories of Guam, the trusteeship territories of the Pacific Ocean, the British Virgin Islands, the United States Virgin Islands and all other so-called small territories still subjected to colonial domination.